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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### Election Day



Joslyn Luginbuhl enters her ballot. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### Boldyga defeats Mercadante

*Faces another challenge in general election*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – Despite a heavily-run campaign by his opponent, State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, was victorious by a large margin in his bid for re-election to a sixth term in the state house.

Boldyga garnered 2,533 votes total and defeated Republican challenger Dino Mercadante, an Agawam City Councilor, handily. Mercadante only received 1,149 votes.

The margin of victory for Boldyga was a healthy 69 percent to Mercadante's 31 percent.

Mercadante was running a platform of wanting to see more state resources come back to the communities of Agawam, Southwick, Granville, and Russell. He believed Boldyga was not doing all he could get those resources and funding. Mercadante was running for state office for the first time. He is a two-term city councilor and owns 911 Burgers and Dogs in Feeding Hills.

Boldyga, however, has run on a platform that he has continuously advocated for working families and has vehemently opposed raising taxes at the state level on the Democrat-controlled state house.

Boldyga will now face his second challenge of this election cycle. He will face another Agawam resident, Kerri O'Connor, in the



State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga



City Councilor Dino Mercadante

general election on Nov. 3.

O'Connor is the sole Democrat challenging Boldyga and she emerged without any challenge in this primary on Tuesday evening. She garnered more than 5,400 votes with many more Democratic ballots being cast due to the other high-profile races in the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts has more than 50 percent of its voting population listed as "unenrolled." Unenrolled, which used to be known as independent, are allowed to choose which ballot they wish to cast in primary elections.

O'Connor is an Agawam School Committee member who was once a member of the U.S. Navy. She works as a project coordinator and a case manager in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional Public Schools. She will be the sixth consecutive Democratic challenger for Boldyga, who has never run unopposed. He won the seat in 2010 from now-Agawam City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin.

O'Connor also publicly challenged Boldyga to a debate "as soon as possible."

Voter turnout was pretty good for a primary, with mail-in voting and the higher profile races drawing out voters. There could be record voter turnout come November with a very hotly contested presidential election and a major U.S. Senate race in Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, Boldyga, who will run for the third time during a presidential election.

In Agawam, a voter "turnout" of 34.25 percent was reported by Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia. A total of 7,464 ballots were cast. About 3,000 of those votes were done by the mail-in voting process that was allowed by the town.

Mail-in and early voting will be a part of the November election. Please pay attention to coming announcements about how you can cast ballots for the Nov. 3 election.

### Neal takes down challenger Morse, wins another term in U.S. House

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

REGION – In what was one of the more hotly-contested races in a primary for a seat in the House of Representatives, U.S. Rep. Richard Neal is a presumptive winner and will head back to the House to resume his work as, among his many assignments, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

On Tuesday, Neal, representative of the First Congressional District in Massachusetts, defeated Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse in the Democratic Primary Election.

While the full numbers were not available as of press time, Neal was declared the winner two



U.S. Rep. Richard Neal



Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse

hours after polls closed by the Associated Press, and was a clear winner with nearly 90 percent of precincts reporting.

The First Congressional District in Massachusetts is the largest district geographically, including numerous small towns throughout Western Massachu-

sets, including the Berkshires and Franklin County.

As of press time, Neal had more than 73,000 votes to Morse's nearly 51,000 votes. Neal was said to have about 59 percent of the vote to Morse's 41 percent.

The race between Morse and Neal was a reason many more Democratic ballots were cast with few Republican primary races in Massachusetts.

Morse, mayor of Holyoke for nine years and elected at just 22 years old, believed Neal needed to be removed from office to allow for change. He alleged Neal was in the pocket of large corporations that gave him record funding, and

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### Voting alternatives draw big interest

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – In a sign of how voting could be in the future, Agawam showed it was on the cutting edge as more than 3,000 votes were cast using mail-in voting.

It is possible that many more ballots could have also been a part of mail-in voting and did not make it to polling locations in time.

The Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts ruled that all mail-in votes had to be in the hands of polling locations of a voter's local precinct by the close of voting on Sept. 1, the date of the primary.

Mail-in voting was allowed

for the first time. Mail-in, better known as absentee voting, has been allowed, but particularly reserved for voters who are out of town on Election Day or are in the military and are out of the state or country.

Early voting, allowing residents to head to the polls in the week leading up Election, was done in the last presidential election, and yielded higher turnout numbers overall.

In Agawam, a total percentage of 34.25 percent of the voting population turned out to vote. There are 21,790 registered voters currently in Agawam spread out over eight voting precincts.

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## ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 459 calls for service from Aug. 24 to Aug. 30 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

## Tuesday, Aug. 25

Reynaldo Irizarry, 42, of 1172 Springfield St., Agawam, was arrested at 6:40 p.m. for possession of a Class A drug, speeding, and failure to notify the RMV of a name/address change.

## Saturday, Aug. 29

Anthony Wallace, 46, of 18 Saab Ct., Springfield, was arrested at 9:49 p.m. for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of liquor, possession of an open container of alcohol, speeding, and failure to use caution when approaching an emergency vehicle.

## NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

## Streaming performance to kick off Applause season

AGAWAM – Since its inception seventeen years ago, the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series has grown steadily in popularity to become a much-anticipated annual event. Bringing our community together through cultural events is more important now than ever, and the new season begins in a safe, and virtual, way on Friday, September 4, 2020. On that evening, Sheryl Faye's videotaped portrayal of Abigail Adams – America's First, Second Lady, will be presented on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm. The performance will also be streamed from the "Watch" button on [www.agawammedia.tv](http://www.agawammedia.tv) for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) for a link and password for the performance. There is a two-hour window from 7:00 – 9:00 pm when the approximate 35-minute program will be available. It is recommended that viewers begin watching no later than 8:15 pm.

Since 2003, Sheryl Faye has masterfully brought to life important historical women in performances across the United States. Her one-woman show immerses the audience in a multimedia learning experience that captivates viewers and sparks their interest to explore more. Abigail Adams is sometimes considered to have been a founder of the United States and is now designated as the first Second Lady and second First Lady of The United States. Adams's life is one of the most documented of the first ladies: she is remembered for the many letters



The Agawam Cultural Council's seventeenth season begins with the virtual presentation of Sheryl Faye's videotaped portrayal of Abigail Adams – America's First, Second Lady on the Town of Agawam's public access channel at 7:00 pm on Friday, September 4, 2020. SUBMITTED PHOTO

she wrote to her husband while he was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the Continental Congresses. John Adams frequently sought the advice of Abigail on many matters, and their letters are filled with intellectual discussions on government and politics. In one of her more famous letters she implores her husband and his colleagues, all of whom were male, to, "...remember the ladies...If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves

bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation." Her letters also serve as eyewitness accounts of the American Revolutionary War home front. This presentation begins with Abigail Adams' life as an adult, travels back to her childhood, and then back to her adult life and is appropriate for both children and adults.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org) and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org). The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

## Free ValleyBike annual membership for people who qualify

## Staff Report

REGION – ValleyBike Share is the electric assist Bike Share program of the Pioneer Valley that includes the cities and towns of Amherst, Easthampton, Holyoke, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield and the UMass Amherst Campus.

Recognizing the need for Equity in Bike Share for marginalized individuals, coupled with systemic racism which has dramatically limited and in the vast majority of cases prevented wealth accumulation by Black people and other people of color, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the participating cities and towns secured funding from the

Community Foundation of Western Mass to underwrite the cost of annual memberships for people who qualify for government assistance.

Bewegen, the ValleyBike Share vendor, has

created an Access Pass program whose mission is to assure that ValleyBike is equitable, affordable and available to all residents regardless of their financial situation. ValleyBike access passes usually cost \$10 for unlimited one-hour rides for a full calendar year during the ValleyBike season April 1 to Nov. 30 (compared to standard cost of \$80 for unlimited 45-minute rides) but are available at no cost this year due to the pandemic and the late open of ValleyBike.

All people from the six participating cities and towns who are eligible for WIC, SNAP, Mass-Health Standard or Section Eight Housing are encouraged to please go to the

[www.ValleyBike.org](http://www.ValleyBike.org) website to sign up for the no cost access pass now.

In addition to the ability to sign up on the website, several local agencies plan to partner with ValleyBike to help people sign up.

Access Pass Membership is free this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but people still need to enter a credit card or other form of identification to register.

People who are unbanked (do not have a bank account or a credit card) can still sign up by downloading the application and mailing it to BWG Field Ops P.O. Box 6102 Holyoke 01041. Details are on the ValleyBike website.

PVPC, the participating cities and towns and Bewegen are working to grow the access pass program to include community "ambassadors" – paid community residents who want to promote the availability of access passes to their family, friends and neighbors. Access pass users are encouraged to apply to be community ambassadors, and organizations and individuals interested in helping build the ambassador program are encouraged to get in touch.

## Parks and Rec announce 2020 youth field hockey sign-ups

8:30AM. Online registration ends on Thursday, September 3 at 9:00PM. No registration will be accepted after Thursday, September 3.

To access online payments and registration log onto [agawam.ma.us](http://agawam.ma.us), then go to the Parks and Recreation Department page, then click on the "Online Payments & Registration" button, then click on agree. This will send you to the Unipay Gold site where you can select specific program registration under transactions. Practices will begin the first week of September and games will be played on Saturdays and Sundays beginning October 3.

Face coverings/masks will be required at all practices and games. Only one parent/guardian will be allowed at the field for each game. More detailed safety protocols will be given to all players and parents at practice. Players need to supply their own stick, goggles, shin guards, mouthpiece, and face covering. For more information, please contact the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department located at 1000 Suffield Street or at 821-0513. For more updates/information/announcements join the Agawam Youth Field Hockey FaceBook page.

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FREE  
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USDA INSP. FRESH  
BONELESS  
CHICKEN BREAST

10 LB BAG

\$1.25  
lb

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lb

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# 'Stop the Spread' COVID-19 testing site opening Aug. 26 at HCC

HOLYOKE — To assist the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Holyoke in reducing the spread of COVID-19, Holyoke Community College will serve as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site offering free tests to the public.

Tests will be conducted outside HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing will be available Wednesday, August 26, through September 12, 2020, during the following hours:

Monday 7-11 a.m.

Tuesday 2-7 p.m.

Wednesday 7-11 a.m.

Thursday 2-7 p.m.  
Friday 7-11 a.m.  
Saturday 7-11 a.m.

Testing will be conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments. There is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Signs and HCC and Holyoke city Police officers will direct drivers from Homestead Ave down to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests will be administered. Cars will leave M Lot, pass through N Lot, and exit onto the campus road and out onto Homestead Avenue.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

For more information, please go to: [www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread)



Holyoke Community College will host free COVID-19 testing for the next two weeks. FILE PHOTO

## Fire department plans to hold 9/11 ceremony

AGAWAM — The Town of Agawam will be conducting a brief September 11th remembrance ceremony on Friday, September 11th, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

The safety of the public is always the primary concern of the Agawam Fire Department. Therefore, in order to maximize the safety of this ceremony, it will be held virtually and be closed to the public.

The ceremony can be viewed live on Agawam public access cable channel 15 or online at <http://AgawamMedia.tv>

Speaking in remembrance at the ceremony will be:

Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois

Father Bill Hamilton, Agawam Fire Department Chaplain

Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill, Saint David's Episcopal Church

The Honorable William Sapelli, Mayor, Town of Agawam

The Agawam Fire Department thanks you for your understanding during these challenging times. It is our hope that you will take a few moments of your day to join us online or on television in remembrance of this solemn day in our history.

## VOTING | from page 1

In addition to the major local races for state rep and U.S. representative, voters were able to choose between challengers for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Current U.S. Sen. Ed Markey was challenged by Congressman Joseph Kennedy, III. Markey would defeat Kennedy statewide, but Kennedy easily carried Agawam by garnering 2,893 votes to Markey's 1,997. Markey will face a Republican opponent in the general election. Kevin O'Connor defeated Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai 1,388 to 874 to win the Republican vote in Agawam. O'Connor also won for the state.

Very quietly, there will be a rematch for the state senate seat. John Velis, a Democrat from Westfield, won the vacated senate seat for the Second Hampden and Hampshire District in May. John Cain, a Southwick Republican, challenged him in the special election and will get a "rematch" in November to win a two-year seat in the state senate.

Rosemary Saccoccia is heading to November to compete for the Register of Probate. She defeated Bob Collamore in the Democratic primary. She does not have a Republican challenger.

## NEAL | from page 1

said Neal opposes many bills he stands by, including the Green New Deal, an aggressive environmental bill.

The race between Neal and Morse was marred for much of August by a letter released by the College Democrats of Massachusetts. The letter alleged Morse made some members of group uncomfortable after he used a dating app to initiate relationships with students at the University of Massachusetts, where Morse also worked as a part-time lecturer. Morse would apologize, but also believed the letter and the timing was an attack on his campaign and an effort to help Neal win the election.

When speaking publicly during his defeat, Morse said he believed the attack by the students was "coordinated" and it clearly played a role in his losing the primary election.

Despite the attack on his campaign, Morse had a huge August, raising more than \$1 million and running massive television and radio advertisements with his campaign messages. Other political action committees also ran several ads in favor of each candidate.

Neal does not have a Republican challenger in the November election and is the presumed representative for the district.

Morse will continue on as mayor of Holyoke and is up for re-election next year.

## EMT training classes at HCC begin Sept. 15

HOLYOKE — Registration is now open for Emergency Medical Technician training for fall 2020 at Holyoke Community College.

HCC's EMT Basic Course (EMT-B) begins Sept. 15 and runs through Dec. 17. The program consists of 170 hours of in-person and remote training for the state certification exam. Approved by the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services, the course covers all aspects of emergency care including patient handling, extrication, communication, working with law enforcement, legal issues, ethics in emergency medicine, use of medical equipment, safe

and sane transportation and much more.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-10 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. About 40 hours of in-person sessions will be held at HCC's Center for Health Education & Simulation, 404 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke, and make extensive use of the facility's medical simulation labs.

For more information or to register, contact Valentyna Semyrog at (413) 552-2123 / [vsemyrog@hcc.edu](mailto:vsemyrog@hcc.edu) or go online at [www.hcc.edu/become-an-emt](http://www.hcc.edu/become-an-emt).

## State launches "My Local MA" campaign to drive economic activity

### Staff Report

STATE — Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced the launch of an effort to encourage residents of the state to support their local economies by shopping at local Massachusetts businesses and attractions, safely - in person, online and using curbside pickup or takeout.

The Baker-Polito Administration's "My Local MA" advertising campaign is kicking off this Friday in tandem with the Sales Tax-Free Weekend taking place Aug. 29 to 30, and was developed as a response to the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Massachusetts local businesses and communities.

The intent of the campaign is to showcase Massachusetts' vast array of businesses and attractions - from family owned-restaurants to artisan boutiques to museums - that are a critical part of the Commonwealth's economy. From Stockbridge to Provincetown, retailers and restaurants are open for business, utilizing safe practices and, in many cases, for online shopping, curbside pickup or takeout and delivery.

The campaign, running through December, will include print, broadcast, billboard and digital ads, along with social media. The website, [FindMyLocalMA.com](http://FindMyLocalMA.com), will feature resources for consumers and more information on the

campaign.

Supporting beloved local businesses also means acting responsibly. "Masking up" and practicing social distancing will be emphasized throughout the campaign to protect our quality of life and ensure that businesses can safely serve customers.

The Commonwealth's small business community plays a vital role in the composition of the Massachusetts economy. According to the US Small Business Administration in their 2019 Small Business Profile, small businesses in Massachusetts employ approximately 1.5 million workers, accounting for approximately 45% of the state's total workforce. Through "My Local MA," residents are encouraged to protect and preserve those elements that make Massachusetts unique.

This year's Sales-Tax Free Weekend will take place on Saturday, Aug. 29, and Sunday, Aug. 30. In 2018, Governor Baker signed legislation that makes the annual sales tax holiday permanent. For more information about this year's annual sales tax holiday, please review these frequently asked questions.

For information, visit [FindMyLocalMA.com](http://FindMyLocalMA.com).

**LOCAL  
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### EDITOR POSITION

Award-winning, family-owned Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking an energetic person to join them as editor of two of its weekly papers.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and have telling a community's stories in their DNA. They must also successfully execute an array of tasks including managing a staff writer, copy editing and guiding coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other companywide publications.

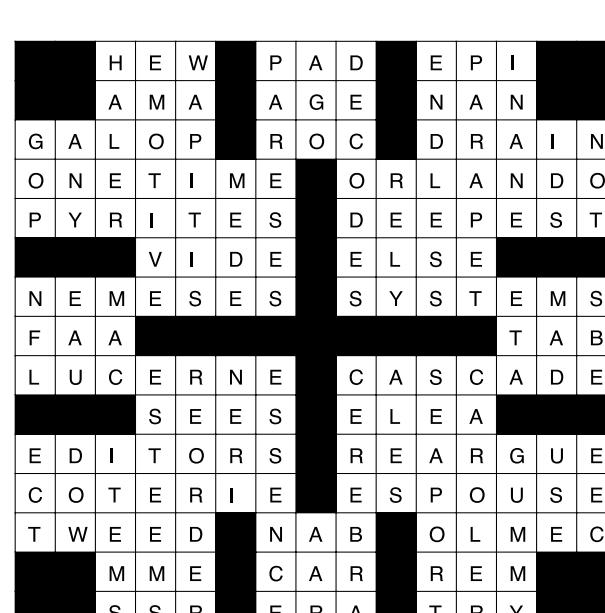
If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism, who in fact might consider it a calling, and who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, we encourage you to apply for this position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Editing experience and the ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for our editor's position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to Managing Editor Eileen Kennedy at [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com).

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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

Can I hide my Social Security in a tax-advantaged account?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnists

Dear Rusty: I will be 62 years of age at the end of this year. Can I start drawing my Social Security at age 62 and have it directly deposited into my IRA (arm's length), not spend it and continue to work without affecting my tax position? I will defer actually using it until a later date. Signed: Curious Investor

Dear Curious Investor: Regardless of where you have your Social Security benefits deposited, if you continue to work after claiming early benefits, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The earnings test applies to anyone who collects benefits before they reach their full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 8 months.

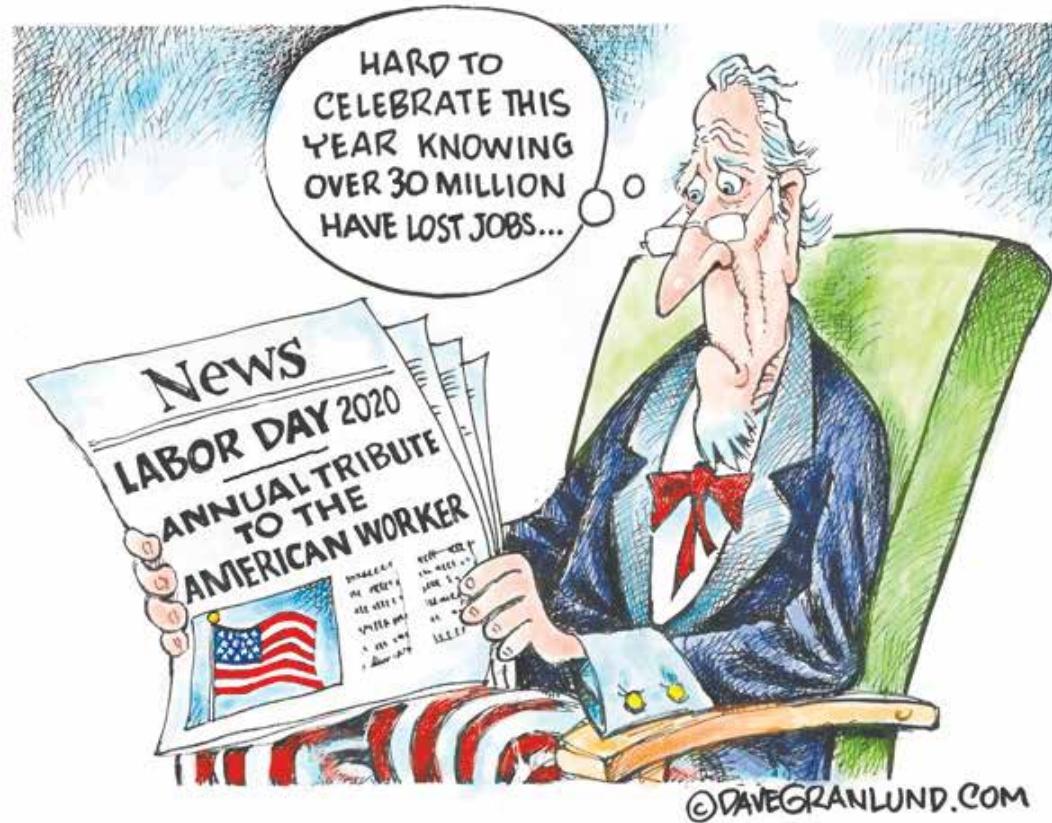
It doesn't matter if you spend your benefits, save them, or invest them; you'll still be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. And, since IRS rules say that only earned income (which excludes Social Security benefits) can be deposited into an individual retirement account, it is not possible for you to direct-deposit your Social Security benefits into an IRA. In any case, even if you otherwise save your benefits for later use, you will still be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. For 2020 the annual earnings limit is \$18,240 (the limit changes annually) and if that is exceeded, Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) and goes away once your FRA is attained.

Social Security gets your earnings information from the IRS when you file your income taxes, and you cannot avoid the earnings test by having the money deposited for later use. The earnings test will still apply, and they will take back some of your benefits if you exceed the limit. For information, by "take back" benefits, I mean they will notify you that they have overpaid you (due to your earnings from working) and will give you the option of either paying them back in full with a lump sum payment, or they will withhold your future benefits until they recover what you owe because you exceeded the earnings limit.

As for your "tax position" on your benefits, that will depend upon your combined income from all other sources (investments, interest, pensions, earnings, etc.), plus 50% of the benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have (combined this is known as your Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or "MAGI"). If you file your income taxes as a single and your MAGI is more than \$25,000 (or if you file "married-jointly" and your MAGI is more than \$32,000) then 50% of your benefits will become part of your taxable income. And filing single with a MAGI of more than \$34,000 (or \$44,000 if married-filing jointly), up to 85% of your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income (by the IRS). Once again, it doesn't matter how you dispose of your benefit payments; they will still be taxable if you exceed the clip levels mentioned above, and you will still be subject to Social Security's earnings test until you reach your full retirement age.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

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## Tomato preservation at its finest

I have been harvesting tomatoes as needed for the last three or four weeks. I'll run out to the garden when I want to make an omelet or add some to my dinnertime salad. Typically, I'll do a big harvest just once a week and go crazy preserving them in whatever way I feel inclined to. This past week I realized that once a week was not enough to keep up. This is a good problem to have, right? Here are some of my favorite methods of preserving an abundance of tomatoes.

For many years I froze tomatoes whole and it worked out great. If you've never tried it, simply hull the fruits, put them on a cookie sheet until they have frozen, then place them in freezer bags. During the offseason you can take out as many as you need for use in juice, stews or even salsas and sauces. Once the tomatoes thaw, the skin slips off fairly easily. It is easy to do this, for sure, but if your freezer space is premium, you may want to split the harvest by trying your hand at canning.

First, can the juice. Simply hull the fruit first, then whip it up in a high powered blender to liq-

uefy it. Pour it into clean quart-sized jars, fitted with a new lid and a band. Place the jars into a pre-warmed water bath canner and process for 45 minutes of boiling time. Make sure that the water covers the jars by an inch or two. This winter you can either drink the juice or boil it down further for use in sauce.

We also can cut tomatoes. First, scald the tomatoes in boiling water until the skins crack a bit. Remove them from the water and allow to cool. Once they do, the skin slips off rather easily. Cut them to fill the canning jar, and then press down on the fruit in the jar with a wooden spoon to remove any air. Wipe the rim clean and then outfit the jar with a lid and band and set in the water bath for the same 45 minutes of boiling time.

Once removed from the water the jars will cool and you will hear the pop of the seals; a symphony when you are doing many jars at a time.

Tomatoes can also be roasted. Place quartered tomatoes along with onions, peppers and garlic in the oven in a shallow roasting pan at 400 degrees, stirring every half hour, allowing the

flavors to meld together. Once cooking is complete and most of moisture has evaporated, place the tasty mixture in plastic bags laid flat in the freezer. They can be easily stacked and stored, then used as a topping for pasta or pizza crust. Yum!

Many years ago I sun-dried tomatoes in the hot greenhouse at Old Sturbridge Village. I had plastic racks left from a dehydrator that never worked quite right. On these racks I placed cut up cherry tomatoes and let them "bake" on the shelves for two or three days in the heat. I stored these little bursts of flavor in a bag in the freezer so they wouldn't mold, simply taking out what I needed for pizza toppings etc.

Maybe this column will be the inspiration to help you tackle your own tomato harvest.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid

## Lions to hold school supply drive

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce that we will host a drive-up school supply drive on Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Agawam Geissler's parking lot (Southgate Plaza) to benefit our K thru 12 students in the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

Simply drive-up to the designated collection area to safely donate school supplies; all personal safety and social distance protocols will be observed. Supplies will be distributed to both in-school and remote learning students, teachers and staff.

Details on supply distribution will be shared at a later date as return to school plans are being finalized as of press time. If you would like to support this initiative with a financial contribution, monetary donations may be made at [agawamlions.org/school-supply-drive](http://agawamlions.org/school-supply-drive).

Alternatively, checks may be mailed to "Agaw-

wam Lions Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 52, Agawam, MA 01001. Attn: Children's Services Fund." All donations are tax deductible.

A list of the most needed school supplies is below. Please note that desired school supplies are not limited to this list, any donation is greatly appreciated.

Needed supplies: Pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners (manual), pencil cases/pouches, felt markers, highlighters, gallon Ziploc bags, spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, glue sticks, index cards, folders with pockets, three-ring binders, notebook paper, index/tab dividers, backpacks, dry erase markers, dry erase/whiteboards, (personal size) hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, Kleenex/tissue new/unopened face masks For the latest information on our community projects and initiatives, please visit the Agawam Lions Club

Facebook page or [www.agawamlions.org](http://www.agawamlions.org).

## AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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# Warm, humid weather ramps up mosquito population and EEE threat

Mosquito season is usually associated with the hotter summer months, but it actually begins much earlier and extends well into autumn.

If you've been outside recently you may have noticed that mosquitoes are out in full force. Some mosquitoes carry germs that can make people and some animals sick. While some mosquito bites will only itch, others can carry potentially dangerous illnesses. In Massachusetts, the diseases linked to mosquitoes are West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus.

As the threat of EEE rises in Massachusetts, including a recent case in Wilbraham, the community needs to take precautions when outdoors.

"The best way to prevent illnesses from mosquito bites is to protect yourself and your family from bites," said Dr. Robert Spence, chief of Emergency Medicine for Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center.

As of August 15th, the second confirmed human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis of the season has been detected in Massachusetts. A woman in her 60s from Hampden County in the western part of the state tested positive on Saturday, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). As a result, the risk level for EEE in Wilbraham has been raised to critical and the risk level in Hampden and Monson has been raised to high. Other communities in the region have been raised to a moderate risk for the mosquito-borne illness, officials said.

"It is possible that some people who become infected with mosquito borne viruses may not develop any symptoms or in some cases only flu-like symptoms. The incubation period for the virus from the time of an infected mosquito bite to onset of illness ranges from four to 10 days and the illness can last one to two weeks. There is no specific treatment for EEE. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, and no effective anti-viral drugs have been discovered for the treatment of EEE. Severe illnesses are treated by supportive therapy, which may include hospitalization, respiratory support, IV fluids and prevention of other infections," said Dr. Spence.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, there are over 3000 different kinds, also called "species," of mosquitoes identified worldwide, with more than 150 different kinds of mosquitoes found in North America. Fifty-one different kinds of mosquitoes have been found in Massachusetts. Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, a gas that humans and other animals breathe out and can follow a stream of carbon dioxide from as far as 50 feet away.

Mosquitoes need stagnant water in order to lay their eggs and what most people don't realize is the surprising number of areas around their own house where mosquitoes can find the stagnant water they need. All a female mosquito needs is a bottle cap of water to lay 100 to 200 eggs, once the eggs are laid, they hatch into larvae within 24 to 48 hours, so any temporary body of water that is present for more than a week

can be a mosquito breeding habitat.

EEE is relatively rare in humans, although there are occasional outbreaks in certain regions of the country. Fewer than 100 people have died from EEE in Massachusetts in the past 75 years, according to the Department of Public Health. In the United States, approximately 5 to 10 EEE cases are reported annually. The risk of getting EEE is highest from late July through September when more mosquitoes are present and active.

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-carried virus most commonly spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito.

"The majority of people who are infected with WNV, some 80% will have no symptoms. A smaller number of people who become infected, less than 20% will have symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands. Less than 1% of people infected with WNV will develop severe illness, including encephalitis or meningitis. There is no specific treatment for WNV infections. People with mild WNV infections usually recover on their own. People with severe WNV infections almost always require hospitalization," said Dr. Spence.

He encourages community members to follow The Department of Public Health tips that will help people protect themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes:

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours: The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider re-

scheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning.

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors: Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites: Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home and Drain Standing Water: Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. They can begin to multiply in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. If you have a bird bath in your yard, be sure to empty it daily and refill with fresh water. Remove containers that may hold water in places that are hard to see such as under bushes, porches, decks, or stairs.

Install or Repair Screens: Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

More information about different types of mosquitoes that can spread the virus can be found on the MDPH website at mass.gov/dph/wnv.

## Amherst College Music Department announces 2020-2021 virtual season

AMHERST – Amherst College is delighted to announce the 2020-2021 season's all-star line-up, bringing seven free world-class performances and masterclasses, via live webcasts. Join online for music and discussion on the Amherst College Music Department website.

If you are one of our subscribers, please be assured that we are saving your seat for you for when it is safe again to gather in person. Until then, we look forward to connecting you with great performers and great performances in new and imaginative ways.

The 2020-21 Virtual Season at a Glance

### Fall Semester

Regina Carter and Friends, 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25

Conrad Tao, piano, 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2  
Calidore String Quartet, 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30

### Spring Semester

Narek Hakhnazaryan, cello, & Daniil Trifonov, piano, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, 2021

Boston Modern Orchestra Project, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021

Juilliard String Quartet, 8 p.m. Friday, March 26, 2021

Nathaniel Dett Chorale, 8 p.m. Saturday, April 10, 2021

More information is available on the website:

[https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/events/music-at-amherst?mm\\_calendar=list/2012-W8](https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/music/events/music-at-amherst?mm_calendar=list/2012-W8)

## ACC schedules Zoom meeting

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) is meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 7:05PM via conference call.

Topic: Agawam Cultural Council Meeting

Time: Sep 15, 2020 07:05 PM Eastern

Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89227880831?pwd=V1lzOHJWajJlcGt-kNmwwRWVmbmhMZZ09>

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Meeting ID: 892 2788 0831

Passcode: 889808

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbUER5hHu4>

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# UMass joins ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

*National initiative seeks 100 percent voter participation by college students in 2020 elections*

## Staff Report

BOSTON - UMass President Marty Meehan announced today he has joined more than 193 college and university presidents and chancellors committing to 100 percent student voter registration, engagement and turnout through the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

"Voting is one of the most important and fundamental duties we have as members of a democratic society - voting is about being heard and helping to set a course for the future, and I am proud to join with higher education leaders from across the nation in urging every student to make their voices heard in the coming elections," Meehan said.

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase student engagement in the election process. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship and make democratic participation a core value.

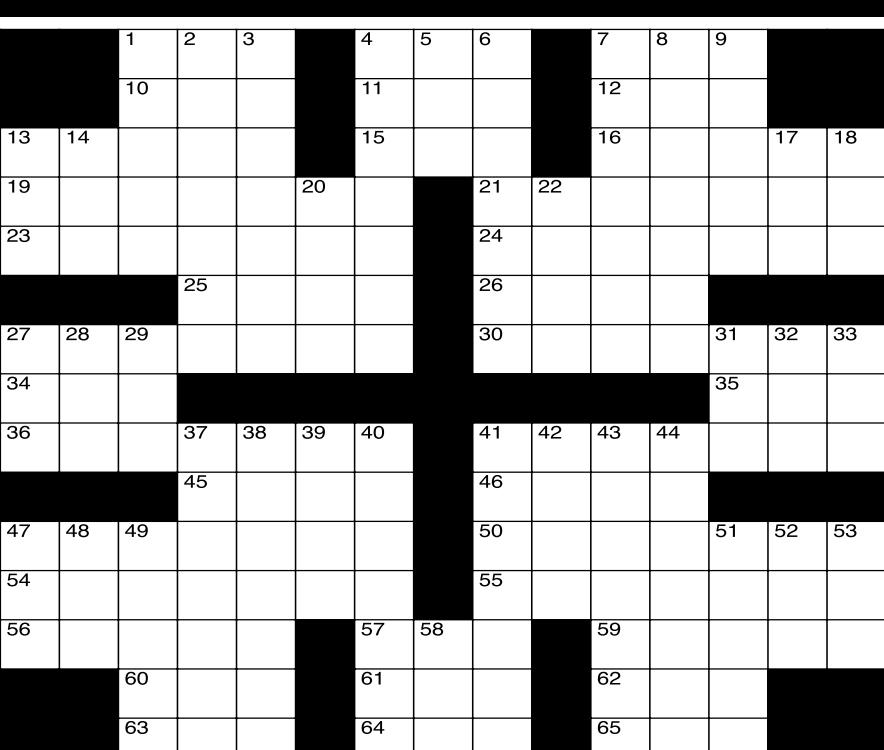
More than 680 campuses have now joined ALL IN since its launch in summer 2016. The higher education leaders

pledging to increase civic engagement on their campuses represent 49 states and the District of Columbia, historically black colleges and universities, community colleges and other two-and four-year institutions, with a reach of more than 7.5 million students.

College students in particular have voted at one of the lowest rates of any group in the United States. By signing the ALL IN pledge President Meehan has committed the UMass system to working with the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Medical School campuses to encourage civic learning and lifelong voting habits. President Meehan discussed voting as "best way to be heard and to bring about change" in a commentary posted on Medium today.

"We are mounting a collaborative effort to ensure that the 70,000 students of the University of Massachusetts participate in this process," Meehan noted. "This is about the paramount importance of voting and of establishing a commitment to lifelong democratic engagement. We are mounting a strictly non-partisan effort. This isn't about advocacy for any candidate or party -- it's about democracy."

The ALL IN Challenge is supporting the Boston Votes initiative endorsed by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh as part of the Civic Cities initiative. Fall 2020 plans include a set of virtual voter registration and turnout parties focused around National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22 and Vote Early Day on Oct. 24.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop with an ax
4. Where a bachelor lives
7. Indicates near
10. Doctors' group
11. It's just a number
12. Type of bread
13. Lively ballroom dance
15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
16. A way to use up
19. Singular event
21. Home of Disney World
23. Minerals
24. Most insightful
25. Consult
26. In addition
27. Agents of downfall
30. Organizations
34. Supervises flying
35. Bar bill
36. Alfalfa

### CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit
41. Dish soap
45. Witnesses
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Newspaper bigwigs
50. Discuss again
54. Small group with shared interests
55. Support
56. Popular sportcoat fabric
57. Take hold of
59. Pre-Mayan civilization
60. Woman (French)
61. Wheeled vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. Cold War player (abbr.)
64. Pitching stat
65. Attempt
66. Partner to cheese

# UMass freezes in-state undergraduate and graduate student tuition

## Staff Report

BOSTON — Responding to the financial hardships that many Massachusetts families are facing, the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees voted today to freeze tuition rates for in-state undergraduate and graduate students for the 2020-21 academic year.

Across the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell campuses, tuition will average \$14,722 for the nearly 48,000 in-state undergraduate students before financial aid is provided. This keeps UMass mandatory charges nearly \$1,000 lower than the average for New England public research universities.

Students will continue to receive nearly \$1 billion in federal, state, private, and university-funded financial aid in FY21. University-funded financial aid, primarily scholarships and grants, has been increased by \$99 million or 38 percent over the last five years with 94 percent going to Massachusetts residents.

Tuition for the 9,500 graduate students will continue to range from \$14,590 to \$18,433 at the four campuses. The board set tuition rates for UMass Medical School at its April meeting.

"Even as UMass, like higher education institutions across the country, faces significant budget cuts due to pandemic-related financial challenges, we need to do all that we can to keep a high quality UMass education within financial reach of Massachusetts students," UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Rob Manning said. "I commend President Meehan, the campus chancellors and their teams for making this possible through sound and innovative management."

"Holding the line on tuition is simply the right thing to do this year as so many students and families are facing stress and uncertainty created by an unprecedented national health emergency and economic downturn," UMass President Marty Meehan said. "That means controlling student charges and supporting financial aid so our students are able to pursue their dream of earning a UMass degree."

In freezing tuition this year, the university is setting aside its recent practice of increasing tuition at the rate of inflation, foregoing \$18.6 million in revenue for the coming year. The loss of revenue is offset, in part, by ongoing efforts of the university to reduce administrative costs. For example, a procurement consolidation effort launched in January is projected to save \$15 million to \$20 million by the end of this fiscal year and an ongoing "efficiency and effectiveness" program started in 2013 has saved \$124 million.

UMass trustees today also approved a \$3.3 billion operating budget that is \$171 million less than last year's budget.

President Meehan said the budget, which funds university operations for the fiscal year that began on July 1, "is in balance at a time when many other colleges and universities, public and private, find themselves in great financial jeopardy. This required the university leadership to make difficult choices, but we take these actions to preserve stability and meet the long-term needs of students. We are continuing to advocate for the highest possible level of state funding and passage of the federal HEROES act, which could translate into \$119 million in emergency funding for UMass."

## The 8th annual Tell it Slant Festival and Emily Dickinson Poetry Marathon returns Sept. 14-20

AMHERST — Produced by the Emily Dickinson Museum, with support from the Amherst Business Improvement District, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and in partnership with the Jones Library, the Tell It Slant Poetry Festival (formerly the Amherst Poetry Festival) celebrates the poetic legacy of Emily Dickinson and the contemporary creativity of the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

The Festival's new name "Tell It Slant," was selected in homage to Dickinson's poem, "Tell all the truth but tell it slant," underscoring the revolutionary power of poetry to shift our perspective and reveal new truths. The Tell It Slant Poetry Festival remains committed to featuring and serving established and emerging poets who represent the diversity of the contemporary American poetry landscape and to fostering community by placing poetry in the public sphere. The annual event attracts a diverse audience of Dickinson fans and poetry-lovers, including families, students, educators, aspiring writers, and those who are new to poetry and literary events. Past Festival headliners have included James Tate, Dara Weir, Martín Espada, Kaveh Akbar, Aimee Nezhukumatahil, Adrian

Matejka, Paige Lewis, and Ocean Vuong. During the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Festival will be an entirely virtual event and all programs are free to the public.

Headlining this year's festivities are Ada Limón, Jericho Brown, Franny Choi, Shayla Lawson, Kimaya Diggs and The Emily Dickinson Marathon.

The cornerstone of the Festival, the Emily Dickinson Poetry Marathon, is an epic reading of all 1,789 of Emily Dickinson's poems. This year, the Marathon will take place online over seven sessions hosted by collaborators including the Jones Library, the Houghton Library, the Folger Shakespeare Library, Amherst-Pelham Regional High School and the Emily Dickinson International Society.

The Festival schedule also includes behind-the-scenes tours of Dickinson archives with Amherst College Frost Library's Special Collections and Jones Library's Special Collections, intimate guided creative sessions which immerse participants in the Dickinson Homestead, a poetry open mic, a Dickinson poetry discussion group, an ekphrastic poetry workshop, readings, and a masterclass.

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## Massachusetts Health Connector application, MassHealth coverage now available in Spanish

BOSTON – The online application for health insurance coverage through the Massachusetts Health Connector and MassHealth is now available in Spanish.

The website, [www.MAhealthconnector.org](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org), now includes the full online application in Spanish, and information and tips about the Health Connector are also now available in Spanish. The application determines coverage eligibility for both Health Connector and MassHealth programs.

"We are pleased to be able to offer Spanish-speaking residents access to our online materials and our application in Spanish," said Louis Gutierrez, the executive director of the Massachusetts Health Connector. "People who are most comfortable reading Spanish can now complete an application, pick a Health Connector plan, and make an online payment using the Spanish-language webpages."

For people who want to use the Spanish version of the website, a button on the top right corner of the website allows users to access the Spanish pages. Along with information about Health Connector coverage, the website now offers the entire application in Spanish for people seeking Health Connector or MassHealth coverage. The website also includes Health Connector plan selection and payment processes in Spanish.

Many people who apply for Health Connector coverage are eligible for ConnectorCare coverage. ConnectorCare includes help paying for premiums, has low co-pays, and no deductibles. This ensures that lower-income residents have access to afford-

able health care. Additionally, a resident who lost coverage from work has 60 days to apply for Health Connector coverage if they would like insurance through the exchange. New applicants who qualify for ConnectorCare can enter coverage at any time during the year. People who qualify for MassHealth receive no-cost or low-cost coverage immediately.

For people who need help with an application or have questions about their coverage, they can find a local Navigator or Certified Application Councilor to help, and many organizations offer help in Spanish. Local assisters can be found on the Health Connector website. People with questions about MassHealth eligible or coverage can call 800-841-2900 (TTY: 800-497-4648), and can request to speak with someone in Spanish.

About the Massachusetts Health Connector

The Massachusetts Health Connector is the Commonwealth's health insurance exchange, and currently serves 325,000 individuals and small-employer members with health and dental insurance. Massachusetts residents who do not have health insurance from an employer or other entity can use the exchange to gain coverage. Through the ConnectorCare program, income-qualifying residents can access coverage that includes low-cost premiums and co-pays, and no deductibles. Access to health coverage for individuals and small businesses can be found at the Health Connector's website, [MAhealthconnector.org](http://MAhealthconnector.org).

## Baker-Polito Administration announces policies to support families, expand childcare options

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced new policies that will provide families who require childcare while their children are engaged in remote learning additional options by allowing programs to offer supervised care during regular school day hours.

Governor Charlie Baker signed an Executive Order that allows the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to authorize currently licensed after-school and out-of-school programs to operate during the school day while children are learning remotely.

As schools prepare to reopen, working parents need to find care and learning support for their school-aged children while they are engaged in remote learning. Current state statute prohibits licensed after-school and out-of-school time programs for school-aged children from offering care during school hours. The Executive Order allows EEC to authorize childcare programs, like YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, family childcare homes, and others, to care for school-age children while they participate in remote learning.

The Department will also exempt informal remote learning parent cooperative arrangements organized by families, if the groups are supervised by unpaid parents. These parent cooperatives are still subject to any state orders regulating gatherings in place under the COVID-19 state of emergency.

In addition, the Executive Order creates a temporary license exemption for remote learning enrichment programs to provide supervision and care for school children up to age 14 while they participate in remote learning during the school day. These remote

learning programs, which must meet specific criteria, will need to first be approved by their local municipality before they can apply for the license exemption. Programs run by a school district are already exempt from EEC licensure and do not need to apply for this exemption.

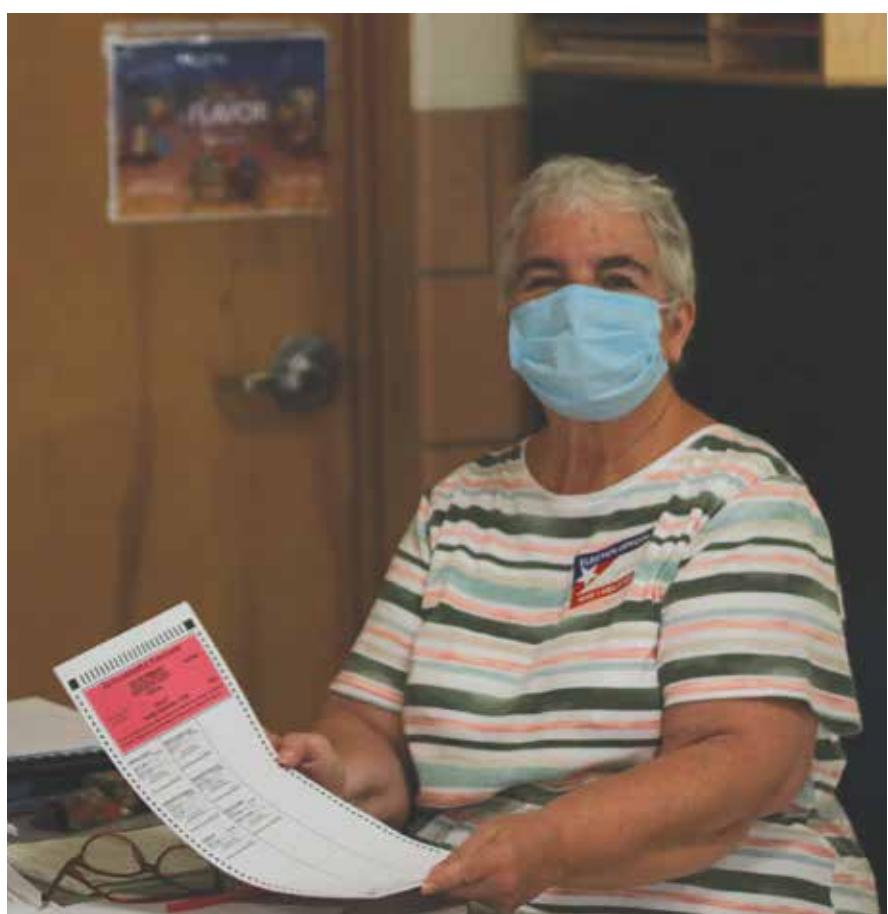
The Departments of Early Education and Care and Elementary and Secondary Education will issue joint guidance that details the minimum requirements for remote learning programs, including background record checks, health and safety standards, facilities checks, and child to staff ratios.

Municipalities will ensure programs, that are approved for the license exemption, comply with health and safety requirements.

"We all want our children to get back into school as soon as possible and we applaud the schools and districts that are making the extra effort to bring their students back in some form," said Education Secretary James Peyser. "At the same time, we know that remote learning will be part of the educational experience for many students this fall, so it's critical that we enable parents, after-school providers, and community organizations to offer additional childcare options and learning supports when students are unable to attend school in person."

"The Commonwealth is developing creative solutions that can meet the needs of children and their families during this unprecedented era in education," said EEC Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy. "We would also like to commend the community providers and education leaders who have worked together to develop solutions tailored to meet families' needs."

## Primary Day in Agawam



Joanne Brown, Precinct 1 warden for Agawam, shows off one of the available ballots for the primary election. Brown runs the precinct at Robinson Park School. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Voters maintained social distance at all precincts. All voter booths were fully sanitized after every use.

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# SPORTS

## FALL SPORTS

# Fall sports set to begin on Sept. 18

*Some schools still need to decide whether to participate*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Fall sports are set to begin and soccer will be a part of the fall lineup as a modified season will be the first up with a number of modifications.

What schools will participate in the fall season is still up in the air following an announcement by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association last week stating schools could begin practicing on Sept. 18.

The COVID-19 Task Force

made several recommendations that were adopted by the MIAA Board of Directors.

As of now, the fall season will run from Sept. 18 through Nov. 20. Soccer, gymnastics, cross country, field hockey, girls volleyball, and golf will all be able to practice and play games.

During the fall season, football and cheerleading can practice, but they cannot play or participate in contests.

As of the current vote, the winter season is scheduled to take place from Nov. 30 to Feb. 21. The winter season is currently scheduled to have basketball, even though it is a high-risk vote.

The floating season, also being labeled as "Fall Sports II" will take place from Feb. 22 to April

25. Unified basketball, football, and cheerleading will be played. Schools that were not able to participate in certain fall sports during the first fall season will also be able to play during that time.

The schools that could potentially participate in sports like soccer and field hockey during the floating season depend on which schools vote to keep students off the field during the first fall season.

Schools that are doing full remote learning and hybrid model learning where students are going to school only part of the time will have to vote on whether students can play. It is not clear yet which schools are or not participate in Western Mass. sports this fall,

and schedules for games have yet to be established.

A 22-0 vote of the MIAA Board of Directors approved the current version of the sports calendar.

The Board of Directors also unanimously voted to attempt to create fall schedules that are league specific and keep travel to a minimum by scheduled games within close geographic regions. In Western Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the group that governs the leagues in the region, will be challenged with coming up with that schedule.

One major fallback of the fall season is the elimination of the tournament.

With the elimination of the tournament, there will unlikely be

a final-sponsored MIAA Western Massachusetts soccer tournament, a big tradition in the region.

The PVIAC is working on hosting its own tournament for the region before the new statewide tournaments begin in fall 2021, but the plans for that have been put on hold since the pandemic.

Another major caveat to the fall sports seasons is that if towns have spikes in coronavirus cases that lead to the community being labeled high-risk by the state, that school would have to cease play. This fall, teams that have to cease play can come back during the floating season, when hopefully, play would be unrestricted because a vaccine is available.

## COVID CHANGES

# OT rules for field hockey top changes for sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With the return of fall sports, the MIAA Board of Directors have chosen to adopt changes to sports recommended by its COVID-19 Task Force committee and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).

Field hockey will see a number of big changes with the game somewhat resembling playoff overtime and the elimination of a number of regular parts of the game.

Field hockey will have no penalty corners and players are expected to observe the field yard full on any and all free hits. It's already a rule, but will likely be more strictly enforced.

But the biggest change is that all regular play will be 7-on-7. Those rules usually apply to overtime, and overtime in field hockey is only played during the playoffs. All other games end in ties.

Other modifications to limit contact are the elimination of stick inspections during the pre-game as coaches will be responsible for making sure that all sticks are legal for use in games. Officials would normally do a stick inspection prior to all games.

Soccer is the other sport that will see some significant changes due to the amount of contact that can take place between players.

To begin, the games will be separated into four separate 20-minute quarters. There will be two minutes in between quarters with the exception of halftime, which will be a 10-minute rest period like normal. But timeouts will be eliminated.

## FIELD HOCKEY

### Preparing for a new fall



Several teams got a taste of what the fall will look like as they participated in summer program held at South Hadley High School for seven weeks. Teams from several area communities, including South Hadley, Agawam, Holyoke, and Belchertown, participated in scrimmages that included 7-on-7 play, a rule that will be part of the fall season due to the pandemic and the need to limit contact. Teams also played without penalty corners and other modifications.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



# Sports

## Bonsignore wins modified race at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Justin Bonsignore has Monadnock Speedway pretty well figured out. Sunday, the Empire State star won the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wade Cole Memorial 200 at the storied high-banked quarter-mile.

It was Bonsignore's third Whelen Tour victory at Monadnock, duplicated big scores here in 2013 and 2014, the latter the famed all-green 200-lapper. When Bonsignore won that one, in fact, Sunday's main event namesake, Wade Cole, was in the field, as was open-wheel legend Ted Christopher.

With rain blanketing the region Saturday, the speedway's 11th event of the season was pushed ahead to Sunday, and second-generation star Matt Kimball (Bennington, NH) found the afternoon racing conditions just to his liking, scoring his first NHSTRA Modified victory of the season.

Other winners Sunday included Jaret Curtis (Rutland, Ma), Street Stocks; Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH), Mini Stocks; and Farnum's stablemate, Chris Davis (Winchester, NH), Pure Stocks.

Jon McKenna set fast time in the Whelen Mods, posting a lap time of 12.781 seconds to sit on the pole as the 28-car field began the big dance. Bonsignore took the green beside him.

McKenna led the first 60 laps of the main event, with Ron Silk draped all over him, and Bonsignore cruising close behind in third. Silk then took control of the Cole Memorial, with Bonsignore moving up to the deuce slot 17 circuits later.

Bonsignore ran in Silk's shadow until rocketing through the low groove to take the lead on 176, taking the checkers by a six-length margin 24 laps later. Doug Coby, strong all day in the seven-caution event, came home third, with Anthony Nocella and Ronnie Williams completing the top five. McKenna finished ninth.

Sunday's victory was Bonsignore's third in five completed Whelen Tour events this season.

Cameron Houle and Solomon Brow led the NHSTRA Mods to the green, with Houle grabbing the early lead. Rookie Cory Plummer then took charge and kept the field at bay until Matt Kimball, from row four, blasted into the top spot on lap 16.

The Bennington, N.H. hot shoe was still up front when this one was shortened with a yellow/checkers ending after numerous cautions had slowed its march to conclusion. Todd Patnode, who'd quietly cruised into second on lap 29, was second, with division points leader Brian Robie moving closer to the championship in third.

Sunday's Street Stock 25-lapper was a

battle of the Rutland, Mass. Curtis twins. Jaret and Chase. Jaret took the lead from Tim Wenzel on lap two and never looked back en route to his second win of the summer. Chase, the points leader, got up for second on lap eight and chased his sibling the rest of the way.

Mini Stock points leader Gordon Farnum flew past Nathan Wenzel on lap 19 of their Sunday feature and then sped away to his fifth victory lap of the summer. Wenzel was strong in second, with Jeff Asselin third.

In the Pures, 2019 track champ Chris Davis started up front and easily scored his third win of the season, unfortunately equaling the number of engines he's lost in 2020. Jimmy Zellman came from row four to earn his best finish of the summer in second, and Nick Houle came home third. Top points man Mike Douglas finished fourth to stay comfortably atop the championship chase.

The Pro Truck Series made its second visit of the summer to the high banks Sunday, with Gerard Giordano Jr. topping a spirited 55-lapper. Giordano grabbed the top spot from Dave Koenig on lap 37 and held him at bay the rest of the way. Connor Souza was third. Saturday, September 5, Monadnock Speedway returns to action with the multi-track NHSTRA Modifieds taking center stage with a Battle for The Cup event. For more information, please visit [www.monadnockspeedway.com](http://www.monadnockspeedway.com).

NASCAR WHELEN MODIFIEDS (Top 10): Justin Bonsignore, Ron Silk, Doug Coby, Anthony Nocella, Ronnie Williams, Matt Hirschman, Woody Pitkat, Sammy Rameau, Jon McKenna, Craig Lutz.

NHSTRA Modified: Matt Kimball, Todd Patnode, Brian Robie, Solomon Brow, Ben Byrne, Joel Monahan, Trevor Bleau, Kim Rivet, Zach Leone, Cory Plummer, Cameron Houle, Jason Houle, Brad Zahensky, Kevin Pittsinger, Scott MacMichael, Brian Chapin, Rob Richardi, Eric Leclair, Scott Bourne

Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Nathan Wenzel, Jeff Asselin, Kevin Cormier, Pat Houle, Tim Leblanc, Joshua Hubbard, Bill Chaffee, Jake Puchalski, Joshua Wright, Bobby Kirker, Aaron Thompson, Ethan Marsh, Raymond King, Kevin Russell, Kevin Clayton, Adam Sprague

Street Stocks: Jaret Curtis, Chase Curtis, Chris Buffone, Hillary Renaud, Kenny Thompson, Paul Barnard, Bryan Granger, Tim Wenzel, Ed Brehio

Pure Stocks: Chris Davis, Jimmy Zellman, Nick Houle, Mike Douglas, Brandon Lavoie, CJ Johnson, Matt Lambert, Cory Lofland, JD Stockwell, Jason Leray, Tucker Houle, Zack Richardson, Joshua Slyz



Justin Bonsignore gets the victory this past week in the modified race. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Jaret Curtis took the win in the street stock race.

### Pioneers announce tryouts for upcoming season

LUDLOW – WUP FC is proud to hold tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups including an open house for younger ages:

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This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read

through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

To ensure we can create the safest environment for your player due to COVID19 precautions, we are still working on exact dates and times to conduct tryouts for the 2020-2021 season. Players may be invited to smaller training sessions and/or limited attendance tryout venues. You will be notified with options via email.

### CHANGES | from page 8

Coaches will be limited to just three per bench.

Players will not be allowed to head the ball, and the use of "walls" on a restart in play will not be allowed due to attempts to socially distance.

Throw-ins will also be eliminated and a kick-in will be utilized instead. Opposing players must be at least 10 yards away from the ball.

Goal kicks and punts or throws back into play from goalkeepers will also be modified. The ball is not allowed to travel past midfield or the other team receives an indirect kick.

Another major modification is made to penalty kicks. During regulation, if a team receives a kick, the ball is dead if it goes off the goalkeeper. No rebound shots will be allowed. A goalie who saves or deflects the ball will receive a goal kick.

Slide tackles and other major contact are also prohibited and could result in direct kicks or yellow cards.

In volleyball, teams will have to eliminate a lot of the contact they are used to. Teams typically huddle quickly before and after plays, and shake hands or high-five before and after the match. All of those traditions will be eliminated for the season.

There will also be a regular cycling of balls to keep balls clean.

Cross country will see waves of runners rather all of the runners lined up to start the game.

All sports will have to observe a lot of social distancing rules, non-shared equipment, and making sure all types of contact are limited.

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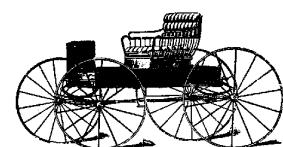
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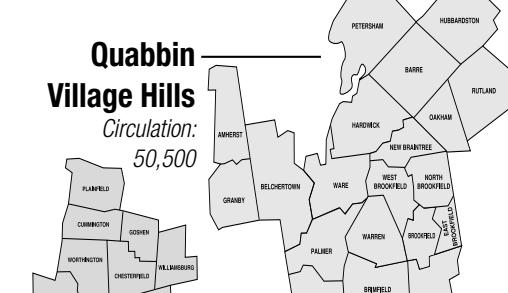
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## Public Notices

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS****LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT****LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing via Zoom on **Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Viktor Savonin, who is seeking a Variance from Ch.180-41 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances to be allowed to subdivide a conforming lot into 2 separate nonconforming lots at the premises identified as 71 Maynard Street.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94473474362?pwd=TxoxVnl2TTViRmc2TFRsYnhB-bExodz09>

Meeting ID: 944 7347 4362

Passcode: 705226

One tap mobile

+1312626799,,94473474362# US (Chicago)  
+1646558656,,94473474362# US (New York)

Doreen A. Prouty  
Chairperson  
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals

8/20, 8/27, 9/03/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING**

The Agawam City Council Administrative Subcommittee will conduct a remote Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Dining Room at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. on an Eversource petition for permission to perform work on property located at 270 Main Street, ID #K13-1-5 in Agawam which could include installation of a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property.

Any person wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on this petition may do so by dialing **1-978-990-5187** and using access code **8476635** followed by # sign. **Calls must be made at 6:30pm to provide testimony.**

Robert E. Rossi, Chair  
Administrative Sub-Committee  
8/27, 9/03/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court**

**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD20P1394EA**

**Estate of:**

Richard J Sederstrom

**Also known as:**

Richard Sederstrom

**Date of Death: 10/18/2019**

**CITATION ON****PETITION FOR****FORMAL****ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Karen Garrett** of Marblehead MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Karen Garrett** of Marblehead MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 20, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**

Register of Probate

9/03/2020

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance

ten appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/17/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION****UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS****UNIFORM PROBATE****CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mary Paier Powers** of West Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mary Paier Powers** of West Springfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court**

**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD20P1410EA**

**Estate of:**

Viola V Sheehan

**Date of Death: 06/07/2020**

**CITATION ON****PETITION FOR****FORMAL****ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mary Paier Powers** of West Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Mary Paier Powers** of West Springfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 24, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**

Register of Probate

9/03/2020

and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/21/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**



## Remaining dates for area COVID Testing

AGAWAM - Tapestry will be providing additional COVID-19 testing in Agawam to support Governor Baker's Stop the Spread testing initiative. "This is a critical time to ramp up testing in order to contain the virus and hopefully avoid the secondary surges that have happened in other states," said Cheryl Zoll, Tapestry CEO.

Testing will be drive-through, free, and available for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. Testing will be done via a self-administered nasal swab and results will be available within 48 hours. Appointments and pre-registration

are encouraged, but walk-ins will not be turned away if there is capacity. Please call (413)364-2149 for scheduling. More information available at [tapestryhealth.org](http://tapestryhealth.org) or [mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread](http://mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread)

Where: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01001

When: Testing will be offered from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on dates listed below

Thursday, Sept. 3  
Tuesday, Sept. 8  
Thursday, Sept. 10

## STCC prepares to deliver 'exceptional' online learning experience

SPRINGFIELD - When students log in virtually on the first day of the new fall semester, they will begin an online learning experience that Springfield Technical Community College educators have been fine tuning all summer.

STCC started planning the conversion to online learning in April, about a month after the college moved away from face-to-face learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the early start in planning, STCC is poised to deliver an online learning experience that is equal in quality to the face-to-face experience, said Geraldine de Berly, vice president of Academic Affairs at STCC. Fall semester classes begin Sept. 8.

"Our adjunct and full-time faculty have been training all summer to prepare for the new school year," de Berly said. "I'm thrilled with the progress they made. Students this fall will receive an exceptional online learning experience. STCC has made a substantial investment to ensure high quality courses across all academic disciplines."

### Half a million dollars investment

The college spent nearly \$500,000 for 100 full-time and 76 adjunct faculty to develop 416 online classes and labs scheduled this summer and fall. Faculty trained through an online development program at STCC.

While it is the only technical community college in Massachusetts and prepares students to enter the workforce upon graduation, STCC also offers an opportunity for students to obtain a degree in liberal arts and transfer to a four-year college or university. Given the affordability and value of a STCC education, students who might have eyed a four-year experience are giving the community college a second look this fall, said Richard Greco, dean of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies.

"We spent this year close to a half-million dollars on training and development to ensure we are offering the best courses possible," Greco said. "Why send your child to a college where they are going to be living in a one-bedroom dorm, taking classes online for \$50,000 a year when you can come to STCC and spend \$2,700 for a semester to get a high quality education that we spent a long time

preparing for?"

STCC will offer online classes with a mix of low-density on campus labs for health, science and technical programs. The college will continue to restrict access during the fall semester and will require students and faculty to follow strict safety protocol when they are on campus.

In an update to the STCC Board of Trustees, President John B. Cook said more than 80% of the credits at STCC will be offered online this fall. Prior to the pandemic, about 12 to 14% were offered online.

### Flexibility and quality

Mary Wiseman and Kyle Kraus, instructional designers at STCC, worked one-on-one with faculty to help them develop their online classes. Faculty will be using a number of digital tools including Zoom conferencing. STCC uses an online learning management tool called Blackboard to access course resources which include video, audio, PowerPoint slide presentations, graphics and more.

Wiseman is a big advocate of online learning, having studied the method for over 26 years. She highlights advantages to the approach, which include greater flexibility. Students who are juggling a busy schedule can access materials online 24/7 and complete the academic work at their own pace.

Wiseman said online courses are as rigorous as face-to-face courses.

"I've been studying online for 26 years so I think it's a really good way to continue your education and keep investing in yourself. You will never go wrong investing in your own education and your own self," she said.

In addition to online courses, STCC will offer support services online, including advising services, library and student orientations. STCC, a Hispanic serving institution, is able to provide some students with Chromebook laptop computers and WiFi hotspots. The college will offer support to students who need help with the online experience.

### Faculty excited by teaching online

STCC faculty say their preparation over the summer has them feeling confident about the new semester.

Jennifer DeForge, professor of Architectural and Building Technology,

## Prepare girls for kindergarten with Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts' virtual events series

### Staff Report

HOLYOKE—Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and Girl Scouts of the USA are launching a free "Make New Friends" virtual event series to ensure that all girls are prepared to start kindergarten with confidence.

The COVID-19 pandemic and transition to virtual learning and activities has disrupted important educational milestones, particularly for children entering kindergarten this year. Social and emotional learning is important for success in kindergarten, and as the experts on girls' leadership and development, Girl Scouts is uniquely poised to lead fun and impactful events that help girls make new friends while boosting their social skills, self-confidence and experience in a classroom or virtual setting.

One of the largest girl-serving organizations offering social and emotional kindergarten readiness programming, Girl Scouts has designed a specialized, engaging four-part virtual event series that is free and open to all girls who are entering kindergarten. Girls will:

- Practice interacting with other girls, exploring new ideas and gaining the courage to ask questions about what they see;
- Explore emotions and learn how being persistent can help them achieve their dreams;

• Use their senses to process the world around them while practicing reasoning and problem-solving skills; and

• Learn how to listen to a story, identify key characters, follow a plotline and then share what they learned.

The dates are as follows:

Tuesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays, Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Mondays, Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7; from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Many in-person kindergarten readiness and pre-K programs have been cancelled or modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including opportunities to meet teachers and classmates and to try out a classroom activity. Knowing that social and emotional learning and development are some of the strongest predictors of academic success and healthy relationships, Girl Scouts has designed fun activities for girls to meet these critical milestones. Events will include activities for girls to explore the solar system, create an inspiring drawing to represent their dreams and remind them to be persistent, and much more.

Enter your zip code to sign up for GSCWM'S Make New Friends event series at [www.girlscouts.org/ready](http://www.girlscouts.org/ready).

## Public Notices

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

#### The Trial Court

#### Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD20P1390EA

Estate of:

Gary Stephen Trench

Date of Death: 02/12/2020

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal

Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative

has been filed by: Frank D Roda of

Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal

Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

The Petitioner requests that: Frank D Roda of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 110:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/24/2020.

SEE MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 11

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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